CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
2003

AIR POUCH

HUL-A-445

SECRET
PBSUCCESS/ HYBAT

7 APR 1954

[ ]

LINCOLN

INFO: Chief, Western Hemisphere

KUGOWN - PBSUCCESS
Soviet Submarine Operation

1. Subject activity envisages the use of a Soviet Satellite arms cache, a photo of a Soviet submarine and planted stories to create a propaganda effect that the Soviets are caching arms along the Central American coast for fifth column purposes, thus menacing the territorial sovereignty of the area.

2. The first arms cache is to be discovered and publicised in Nicaragua. Subsequently and at an appropriate date a similar expose of a Soviet-Satellite arms cache will take place in Guatemala City, thus providing further "substantiation" of Soviet arms smuggled into Central America. Both exposes will provide the incidental advantage of a plausible explanation as to the immediate origin of SYNCARP's Soviet-Satellite arms; i.e., from confiscated CP caches.

3. Procedure

Step One: (19-24 April) Plant releases in Mexico, Panama and Nicaragua that sub-sightings have been reported. Panama should attempt to elicit US Navy denial of US sub movements off West Coast of Central America. All resultant publicity should be replayed in each of the other countries.

Step Two: (24 April) Cache several kits already prepared for burial in PBSUCCESS program. These kits will be buried with minimum knowledge by non-KUBARK personnel and at a site on the coast chosen by [ ] but in keeping with the Nicaraguan notional sighting.

Step Three: (24 April) Mica II released by [ ] to local press with story he had obtained it from a Nicaraguan residing on the

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Pacific Coast. Further that he had requested interrogation of the photographer.

Step Four: (26 April) [ ] will arrange story with photographs of caching (NICA III). Story explains how photographer had spotted approximate location of sub when photo taken and had noticed small boat being taken abroad. Investigation of area nearby reveals markings in sand and trampled vegetation which lead to discovery of cache site. Recovery of site should be done by Nicaraguan police acting on tip as above. Unwitting persons would then be witness to uncovering and opening of kits, photo's, eye witness accounts, etc.

Step Five: (27 April) [ ] makes strong public statement about danger of Soviet in Central America as being real apropos above and undoubtedly Communists elsewhere are receiving arms in this manner. If feasible, protest to Soviet Government shall be made.

4. The Chief of Station [ ], is requested to make contact with [ ] in the name of Herbert L. GILLRAI who (for the information of Stations not familiar with [ ] operations) is a personal friend of [ ] and has already participated in PBSUCCESS. This operation should be presented orally t[ ] and generally in the following terms:

As you know, there have been frequent reports of Soviet submarines in your area.

For example, it has been reported that, early in February of this year, a Soviet submarine came secretly into San Jose in Guatemala. At that time, so it is reported, several Guatemalan Communist leaders were embarked on the submarine to assist in burying caches of arms, supplied by the Soviet, along the Pacific Coast of Central America. At the appropriate time, these caches are to be dug up by local Communists, to be used in a general uprising which is to bring all Central America under Communist Control. This report is probably untrue. Some pictures of a Soviet submarine are available for your use; they could have been taken by a Nicaraguan Coastal resident with a box camera while the Soviet submarine surfaced in a Nicaraguan bay. Also available are several boxes of Soviet - satellite arms and explosives. In addition, these are available two suggested press releases (which you may see) fit to use, first to publicize the photo of the submarine and secondly to anticipate discovery of the arms cache.

It is presumed that you have a secure means of having the arms buried in an appropriate coastal area; it is also presumed that you would then be able to give publicity to the photograph, as having been delivered to you by a coastal resident. Then the matter of having the arms cache discovered by your police should not present a problem.

You are of course the best judge of both timing and details; we have word, however, that the Guatemalans, about the middle of April, plan to announce another "plot" as a pretext for further arrests and more propaganda aimed at other nations. Perhaps you could "find" the photo and the arms about that time.

5. Attached are several copies of the photo to be presented to [ ], also two proposed press releases for him. The kit of Soviet-Satellite arms is in PIVALL's possession. Nothing should be given to [ ] writing except the two suggested press releases (Nica I and Nica II).

6. Also attached are press releases to be planted as soon as possible in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama. The [ ] Mission should, after publication of its release, endeavor to effect a statement by U.S. Naval Authorities in the Canal Zone that no U.S. submarines were in the Pacific coastal area of Central America during April 1954.

7. Nica III

a. Following discovery and photographing of cache, stories are to be self-generating. Leads should be taken from Nica I and Nica II.

b. Photographs should be of general beach area where sub was spotted, footprints leading to cache, broken shrubbery, workmen digging up cache, box being opened, cache spread out on tarpaulin, and closeups of giveaway markings.

c. [ ] should make an appropriate official statement commending the unnamed costeno for his resourcefulness and patriotism, and commenting acidly re the sinister purposes of the sub's clandestine visit, citing the caching of arms as incontrovertible evidence of Soviet intervention in the Hemisphere. The statement should pull together the reports of notional sightings as published in Nicaragua, Mexico, and Panama to lend further flesh to the body of proof. [ ] should add that he has guaranteed the costeño's anonymity and placed him under his personal protection to avoid "extremist reprisals."

d. [ ] should arrange locally for widest dissemination of story and all pertinent photos. [ ] embassies and consulates could assist around the world. A note of protest should be sent to the Soviet Government via a third country and publicized.

8. Upon activation of Nica III all addressee Stations should:

a. Publicize all overt Nica III results, emphasizing photos of sub and cache.

b. Pouch all results local publicity to other interested stations and LINC for maximum playback.

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C. Make sure local assets arrange with international press representatives to give play to story including angles concerning diplomatic implications and local apprehensiveness. Guatemala should be painted as the thinly-disguised hand of the Kremlin, and should receive the imprecations of the Hemisphere for its abetting of Soviet interventionism in the Hemisphere.

D. Wherever possible high-level press contacts should be encouraged to comment editorially on the intolerable situation posed by Guatemala with speculation in a vein similar to, "How long, O Cataline.. etc.

9. Recent discovery of the assassination plot against the President of Nicaragua lends greater credibility to the notional story.

10. [C] [redacted] are encouraged to make such textual changes in the attached plants as may be advisable because of local considerations and opportunities for using colloquial expressions.

11. Addressees should keep LINCOLN informed by Cable of their progress in this operation.

JEROME C. DUNBAR

JCD/ ERL/ WCT/ sgw
6 April 1954
Attachments:
Att. A: Press Release for [redacted]
Att. B: Press Release for
Att. C: Press Release for
Att. D: Press Release for
Att. E: 1 Photograph: all copies [C] [redacted] (Note: to be reponched to other [C] [redacted] if overt Press release means are impractical)

Distribution:
2 [redacted] (w/ all att.)
2 [redacted] (w/ att. A)
2 [redacted] (w/ att. B)
2 - WASH (w/ att. A-E)

7 - LINC (w/ 1 copy all att.)

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SUBMARINO VISTO CERCA DE TEHUANTEPEC

¿Otro Ultraje Contra la Soberanía Nacional?

Se ha informado que hace tres días un submarino fué visto proceder por el litoral meridional de Salina Cruz a una distancia entre cuatrocientos y quinientos metros de la costa. El sumergible fué visto de una playa por varios Tehuanes antes del anochecer. Al principio creyeron que era un tiburón surgido a la superficie y dijeron que tenía un color gris oscuro o negro.

Como el submarino no desplegó bandera, no se sabe su nacionalidad; sin embargo, este informe es semejante a otros notados desde hace varios años de la violación de las aguas territoriales de naciones de la América Central por submarinos no identificados.

No se cree que el submarino pertenezca a los EE. UU. porque se sabe que la flota de submarinos norte-americanos está plenamente ocupada en maniobras en el Mar Caribe cerca de las Islas Bahamas.

ATTACHMENT A TO HUL-A-545

[ ]
X

SUBMARINE SIGHTED IN TEHUANTEPEC WATERS

¿Otro Ultraje Contra la Soberanía Nacional?

Three days ago a submarine was reported to have been seen proceeding along the coast south of Salina Cruz four to five hundred meters offshore. The submersible was seen by several Tehuanas before nightfall from a beach. They thought it at first to be a surfaced shark, and said that its color was dark gray or black.

Because the submarine displayed no flag its nationality is not known; however this report is similar to others noted over the past several years of unidentified submarines violating territorial waters of Central American nations.

The submarine was not believed to have belonged to the EUA, for the reason that the EUA submarine fleet is known to be fully engaged in maneuvers in the Caribbean sea near the Bahama Islands.

ATTACHMENT A TO HULA-
495

C. J

SUBMARINO VISTO EN EL GOLFO DE CHIRIQUI

Otro Barco de "Origen no Revelado"

Hace mas de una semana un submarino fué visto cerca del litoral oriental del Golfo de Chiriquí, cerca de la embocadura del Río Viguí en Veraguas. Los hermanos Carlos y Raúl Sánchez regresaban de una noche de pesca cuando escucharon voces sobre las aguas. Creyendo que las voces podrían ser las de naúfragos, dirigieron su bote hacia el lugar del cual provenían los sonidos, pero al acercarse se asombraron al distinguir el contorno de un submarino surgido a la superficie. Se distinguían hombres en la cubierta y por el ruido del salpicar de las aguas era evidente que miembros de la tripulación se bañaban en la vecindad del submarino.

Como las palabras escuchadas por los hermanos no eran ni en español ni en inglés, cambiaron rápidamente de curso y navegaron varios kilometros costa abajo. Al regresar a eso de las nueve de la mañana siguiente, notaron que el submarino había partido de su ancladero de la noche anterior. Luego prosiguieron al litoral, descargaron su pesca y regresaron a su casa.

Debido a que los hermanos Sánchez no informaron acerca del acontecimiento, se supo sólo ayer por medio de un notario cuya esposa escuchó por casualidad a la esposa de Raúl Sánchez comentando el extraño descubrimiento; se dió cuenta de su significado y comunicó los datos mencionados a nuestro corresponsal.

La Autoridad Naval de los Estados Unidos en Panamá ha negado la presencia de submarinos estadounidenses en el area del Golfo de Chiriquí. Por lo tanto, se presume que el submarino mencionado es otro de los de

origen no revelado que aparecen de vez en cuando desde hace tres años en las aguas de la América Central.

Se recordará que el sobrecargo del vapor danés "Jens Toft", el cuál visitó Panamá reportó a fines de febrero un submarino soviético en San José, Guatemala. Según Otto Bjergstrom, el sobrecargo, el submarino soviético se suplió de aceite al costado de su barco por lo cual fué posible la identificación positiva del mismo. Es posible que el submarino de Chiriquí y el otro visto por el sobrecargo danés sean el mismo, puesto que los submarinos modernos pueden permanecer fuera de su puerto de origen por varios meses.

Las autoridades panameñas han pedido al público que no se alarmen sobre el acontecimiento, puesto que la presencia de un submarino soviético en nuestras aguas puede haber tenido inocente motivación. Aún la tripulación de submarinos veteranos tiene que surgir periódicamente a la superficie para tomar aire fresco y por cortos períodos de recreación.

C 7

SUBMARINE SEEN IN THE GOLFO de CHIRIQUI

Another Vessel of "Undisclosed Origin"

More than a week ago a submarine was seen near the eastern shore of the Golfo de Chiriqui, close to the mouth of the Viguí River in Veraguas. The brothers Carlos and Raúl Sánchez were returning from a night of fishing when they heard voices on the water. Thinking the voices might be those of castways they steered their boat in the direction of the sounds, but as they approached were astonished to see the outline of a surfaced submarine. Men were visible on the deck, and from the noise of splashing it was evident that crew members were bathing in the vicinity of the submarine.

Because the spoken words heard by the brothers were neither Spanish nor English, they changed course quickly and sailed several kilometers down the coast. Returning about 9:00 in the morning they saw that the submarine had left its overnight anchorage. They then put to shore, unloaded their catch and went home.

Because the brothers Sánchez made no report of the incident, it became known only yesterday through a notario whose wife had overheard the wife of Raúl Sánchez discussing the strange discovery, realized its significance, and reported the foregoing details to our corresponsal.

The United States Naval Command in Panama has denied the presence of any US submarines in the area of the Golfo de Chiriqui. Therefore the presumption is made that the submarine in question is yet another of undisclosed origin which have made occasional appearances in Central America waters during the past three years.

It will be recalled that the purser of the Danish ship "Jens Toft" which visited Panama reported a Soviet submarine in San José, Guatemala, in late February. According to Otto Bjergstrom, the purser, the Soviet submarine refueled alongside his ship making positive identification possible. It is possible that the Chiriquí submarine and the one seen by the Danish purser are the same, inasmuch as modern submarines can remain away from their home ports for many months.

Panamanian authorities have requested the public to refrain from alarming themselves over the incident, inasmuch as the prsence of a Soviet submarine in our waters may conceivably have had innocent motivation. Even veteran submarine crews must surface periodically for fresh air and short periods of recreation.

ATTACHMENTS B TO HULA-445

DESCUBRIMIENTO MISTERIOSO

Se Cree Sea un Submarino Soviético

Un costeño, cuyo nombre se retiene durante la investigación, alega haber visto y fotografiado un submarino pintado de negro cerca del litoral oriental del Golfo del Papagayo, Guanacaste.

Las circunstancias descritas son las siguientes: el costeño partí para Managua para trabajar de albañil y deseaba llevarse una fotografía de su tierra. Con una cámara barata, la cuál había tomado prestada, se dispuso a sacar una fotografía de la playa donde se había bañado de niñ y debido a que el autobás para Managua salía temprano en la mañana se fué para la playa poco después del amanecer.

Al llegar a la playa vió el submarino a unos doscientos metros del litoral. Se distinguían tripulantes que trabajaban subiendo un bote a la cubierta. Espero que el bote estuviera asegurado y fuera de vista y que los tripulantes desaparecieran en las escotillas antes de sacar la fotografía. Al principio creyó que el submarino era estadounidense.

No fué hasta llegar a Managua, donde el rollo de la película fué desarrollado, que el costeño pensó de nuevo en el raro acontecimiento. Al mostrar la fotografía revelada a un amigo, cuyo trabajo lo familiarizaba con los barcos de todas las naciones, fué informado que el submarin no se parecía a ningún submarino estadounidense sino que por el contrari parecía tener características soviéticas. La ausencia de una bandera nacional disipó también la impresión original de que el submarino pertenecía a la Marina de los EE. UU.

Actualmente el costeño está sometido a intenso interrogatorio de parte de las autoridades navales, y su fotografía del submarino se está examinando detenidamente en la esperanza de averiguar la nacionalidad del intruso.

Cuando el relato del costeño sea verificado, una información detallada será emitida a la prensa por nuestras autoridades nacionales. Sin embargo, es probable que la fotografía del submarino no se publicará hasta que las autoridades navales no estén seguras sobre el origen del barco.

Se tendrá en mente que el checoeslovaco Miroslav Piroch; el agente guatemalteco, "Coronel" Hubert Julian ("El Aguila Negra"), y otras personalidades notorias pro-Comunistas se han interesado en el obtenimiento y el envío de municiones a la tierra de Arbenz. Se teme que de nuevo el Gobierno de Guatemala esté importando clandestinamente armas checoeslovacas y polacas en menoscabo de la paz en la América Central.

[ ]

NICA - I

MYSTERIOUS DISCOVERY

Believed to be Soviet Submarine

A costeño whose name is being withheld during investigation alleges that he saw and photographed a black-painted submarine near the Eastern shore of the Golfo del Papagayo, Guanacaste.

The circumstances described were as follows: the costeño was leaving for Managua to work as a albañil and wanted to take with him a photograph of his tierra. With a borrowed box camera he planned to take a photograph of the beach where he swam as a boy, and because the bus to Managua left early in the morning, he departed for the beach shortly after sunrise.

As he reached the beach he saw the submarine lying some two hundred meters offshore. Crewmen were visible on the submarine as they worked recovering a small boat, hauling it on to the deck. He waited until the small boat had been secured out of sight and the crewmen had disappeared down the hatches before he took the photograph. At first he thought the submarine was estadounidense.

It was not until the costeño arrived in Managua where the roll of films was developed that he thought again of the unusual incident. Showing the developed photograph to a friend whose work made him familiar with ships of all nations, he was informed that the submarine did not resemble any known estadounidense submarine, but, on the contrary, appeared to have Soviet characteristics. The absence of a national flag also dispelled the original impression that the submarine belonged to the Marina of the EUA.

At present the costeño is undergoing intensive questioning by naval authorities, and his submarine photograph is being examined minutely in the hope of ascertaining the nationality of the intruder.

When the costeño's story is verified, a detailed statement will be issued to the press by our national authorities. However, photograph of the submarine will probably not be released for publication until naval authorities have satisfied themselves as to the vessel's origin.

It will be recalled that the Czech, Miroslav Piroch; the Guatemalan agent, "Coronel" Hubert Julian ("El Aguila Negro"), and other notorious pro-Communist personalities have interested themselves in the procurement and shipment of munitions to Arbenz-land. It is feared that the Guatemalan government is again importing Czech (Skoda) and Polish arms clandestinely to the detriment of peace in Central America.

NICA - II

(USE FOTOGRAFIA
CON ESTE ARTICULO)

VIOLADA NUESTRA SOBERANIA

Se Identifica Submarino Soviético

El gobierno ha investigado a fondo y verificado el relato del costeño que vió un submarino cerca del litoral en el Golfo del Papagayo, el cual se publicó en la prensa hace _____ días. Esta fotografía casual ha sido identificada por peritos como un submarino soviético y por eso el nombre del fotógrafo aficionado se está reteniendo del conocimiento público con miramientos por su seguridad personal.

El fotógrafo ha identificado el lugar donde él vió el submarino, el cual en aquel entonces estaba inmóvil en el agua, subiendo a bordo un bote que evidentemente acababa de regresar de un viaje a tierra. Se presume que el bote pertenecía al submarino; de otra manera habría regresado una vez terminada su misteriosa misión en lugar de permanecer a bordo.

Se siente grave inquietud en los cuarteles oficiales sobre la posible misión del submarino y de su tripulación, puesto que el bote del submarino puede haber sido utilizado para embarcar a simpatizantes comunistas. Sin embargo, otros oficiales indican que una persona saliendo así clandestinamente de nuestras costas tendría que ser de importancia comunista internacional para merecer que se arriesgara uno de los valiosos y modernos submarinos de Rusia. La opinión que ha recibido mayor aceptación oficial es que el bote del submarino fué enviado a tierra para hacer una entrega más bien que un rescate, y se teme que puedan haber sido entregados o escondidos por la tripulación

del submarino dinero o armas para propósitos anti-naciones.

La población local costeña está siendo interrogada para obtener más información, y se esperan informes adicionales dentro de pocos días.

ATTACHMENT D TO HOLA- 445

NICA - II

USE PHOTO
WITH THIS

OUR SOVEREIGNTY VIOLATED

Soviet Submarine Identified

The government has fully investigated and verified the story of the costeño who came upon a submarine near shore in the Golfo del Papagayo as reported in the press __ days ago. The chance photograph has been identified by experts as that of a Soviet Submarine and for that reason the name of the amateur photographer is being kept from public knowledge out of regard for his own personal safety.

The photographer has identified the location from which he saw the submarine which was, at the time, lying motionless in the water, to bring aboard a small boat which had evidently just returned from a trip to shore. Presumption is made that the boat belonged to the submarine, otherwise it would have been turned adrift upon completion of its mysterious mission instead of being retained aboard.

Grave concern is felt in official quarters concerning the possible mission of the submarine and its crew, inasmuch as the submarine's boat possibly may have been utilized to take aboard communist sympathizers. However, other officials point out that any person departing our shores so clandestinely would have to be of international communist significance in order to merit the hazarding of one of Russia's valuable and modern undersea vessels. The view receiving greatest [redacted] official acceptance is that the submarine's boat was sent ashore to make a delivery rather than a recovery, and it is feared that money or arms for anti-national

purposes may have been delivered or concealed by the submarine crewmen.

The local costeño population is being questioned to develop possible further information and additional developments are anticipated within the next few days.

ATTACHMENT D TO HULA- 445